

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 87-106. Claims 87-106 are rejected.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

The title of the application has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicant requests the objection to the title be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 87-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Duault, U.S. 5,930,265. Claims 87-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Duault.

Claim 87, as presently amended, recites (emphasis added):

A method comprising:

assigning a plurality of segment IDs to a plurality of channels associated with a plurality of digitized segments of data;

determining a boundary number that represents a number of segment IDs to be aggregated into a first section and a number of corresponding digitized segments of data to be aggregated into a second section;

aggregating the determined boundary number of segment IDs into the first section, wherein the segment IDs share a destination node;

aggregating the determined boundary number of digitized segments of data into the second section, wherein each aggregated digitized segment of data in the second section is associated with a segment ID in the first section;

combining the first section and the second section into a packet segment;
appending a network header to the packet segment to create a multi-channel
packet; and

transmitting the multi-channel packet over a network.

Duault is directed to efficiently transporting multimedia packets over an ATM network.

Figure 4 shows the ATM Adaptation Layer (AAL) and the ATM layer. In the upper portion of Figure 4, an SSCS PDU payload and SSCS trailer are generated (details of which are described in conjunction with Figure 5). The SSCS trailer is appended to the SSCS PDU payload to define the CPCS PDU payload (col. 6, line 33-35; Figure 4). The CPCS PDU payload is not transmitted over the ATM network as a single packet, but is split into conventional ATM cells before being transmitted over the ATM network (Abstract; col. 7, lines 52-61; Figure 4).

Moreover, Duault discloses that “each ATM cell shall contain one or several AAL SDUs or portions of these. The last ATM cell shall include the SSCS trailer followed by padding bits if

required..." (col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 2) (emphasis added). It is noted that the SSCS trailer (that contains the CIDs) may be in a different ATM cell than the ATM cell(s) containing portions (or all) of the SSCS payload. Thus, Duault expressly teaches away from transmitting the SSCS trailer and SSCS payload (i.e., the CPCS PDU payload) in a single multi-channel packet.

In contrast, the Applicant expressly claims:

combining the first section and the second section into a packet segment;
Appending a network header to the packet segment to create a multi-channel
packet; and
Transmitting the multi-channel packet over a network.

It is further noted that Duault does not suggest modifying the ATM cells sent over the ATM network. An object of Duault is to transport fixed or variable length data packets using conventional ATM cells (col. 3, lines 30-35). This allows Duault's method to be used with currently available ATM network hardware (col. 3, lines 46-49; col. 8, lines 5-8).

Thus, Duault fails to disclose or suggest at least one of the expressly recited limitations of claim 87. Accordingly, claim 87 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Duault. Independent claims 100 and 104 distinguish over Duault for at least the same reasons as claim 87. Claims 88-89, 91-99, 102-103, and 105-106 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits that in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case.

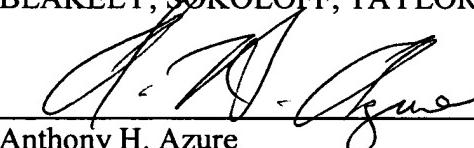
Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Anthony H. Azure
Reg. No. 52,580
Phone: (206) 292-8600 x311